

IN REMEMBRANCE: JOSEPH S. LALLI, 1952–2001

The behavior analysis community suffered a great loss when Joseph S. Lalli passed away May 17, 2001. Joe was one of the field's best researchers, teachers, and role models. He also leaves behind a community of friends, family, and colleagues who will dearly miss him.

Born in Philadelphia, Joe was the consummate Philadelphian. He was an authority on everything from soft pretzels to cheese steaks, Penn Relays to the Seventy-Sixers, the Philadelphia Art Museum, and Italian cuisine (the best of which is made by his mother). A 1970 graduate of Monsignor Bonner High School, Joe completed his bachelor's degree at West Chester University in 1977, his master's degree at Millersville University in 1985, and his PhD at Lehigh University in 1990. He was a member of the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine from 1990 to 1999 and the Director of the Biobehavior Unit of Children's Seashore House. Joe left Penn to become an esteemed member of the faculty of education at Holy Family College.

Joe was the key member of a research team that published well over 100 papers during his tenure at Penn. He published extensively in *JABA* and other leading journals in developmental disabilities. The high quality of his work led to his appointment to

two terms on the *JABA* Board of Editors and as associate editor. His studies covered a range of topics from practical methods to teach skills to people with disabilities (e.g., sight words, telephone usage, conversation, ambulation) to studies that examined the behavioral processes that maintain problem behavior and underpin effective interventions. Indeed, Joe was one of the leaders in this emerging area of "process-based" research that is returning applied behavior analysis to its analytic roots. Topics that Joe either pioneered or contributed to significantly include response class hierarchies, choice and conditioned reinforcement, response induction, stimulus generalization gradients, fixed-time schedules, response covariation, delayed reinforcement, and behavioral momentum. Impressive as this record of accomplishment is, those who knew Joe professionally knew he was just reaching his potential and maturity as a scientist. It is Joe's unrealized full potential that is the most significant loss to the discipline and to the many persons with disabilities who will not benefit from his insight and expertise.

Joe was a superb teacher and mentor in every sense. He had the rare ability to inspire in his students a keen interest in learning behavior analysis. Joe made the science of behavior accessible to anyone who would lis-

ten, and there were many who did. The students themselves best express Joe's impact on them. Several have written personal tributes to Joe, which are posted on the *JABA* Website for all who are interested (http://www.envmed.rochester.edu/wwwvgl/seab/history/lalli_memorial.htm).

Beyond Joe's many contributions to behav-

ior analysis, he will be remembered for being an extraordinary human being. He was a devoted husband and father, and a friend of unparalleled loyalty and integrity. Although those who knew Joe personally feel an immense sense of loss, we will always carry with us his example for living life with optimism, good humor, courage, and kindness.